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author. It shows the same method applied to Metaphysics. Berkeley, as a consistent empiricist, saw that Sensation shuts itself up within its own home, and does not include its object. The object must be supplied from without, and he supplied it provisionally by the name of God. Mr. Mill's improvement was to substitute as the object "the permanent possibility of sensations," not seeing apparently that this is another way of saying that knowledge is an illusion, that we never really get beyond our own sensations, but only come, through their repetition, to fancy that they are something more.

8. — *Young Folks' History of the United States.* By THOMAS WENTWORTH HIGGINSON. Boston : Lee and Shepard. 1875.

THIS capital little book solves a problem that at first sight seems hopeless, — how, in a small duodecimo of three hundred and twenty-nine pages, to convey a clear, true, and forcible impression of the whole history of the United States, from the earliest discoveries to the present time. The subject in itself is a very unmanageable one. The division into numerous Colonies, independent of each other, deprives it of the unity of action almost indispensable to making an attractive story of the ante-Revolutionary period, while the rest of the narrative has little other than a political interest, which very rarely commends itself to "Young Folks." To put this incongruous and complicated history into a nutshell, and make it at the same time wholesome and savory, is an achievement requiring no little skill.

Mr. Higginson has adopted a plan of picture-writing in which the broad aspects of his subject are rapidly sketched out, and then enlivened with a few striking and characteristic details, excellently fitted to impress the whole strongly and justly on the mind of a youthful reader or of an older one. This union of the particular and the general is one of the most marked features of the book. It appears especially in his portraits of the various Colonies. No intelligent child can read his account of New England, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Georgia without fixing in his memory their chief distinctive traits. Thus, after being told the principles on which Massachusetts was founded, he is invited to take a near view of the Puritan settlements : —

"If we could carry ourselves back to those days, and were to approach a New England village about nine o'clock on Sunday morning, we should hear some one beating a drum, or sounding a horn, or blowing a conch-shell, or possibly ringing a bell, to call people to worship. As we came nearer still, we should

see a flag waving from a little log-built church, or 'meeting house.' Entering the village, we should see a strong fence of stakes around this meeting-house, and a sentinel in armor standing near it; and we should see some of the men as they went in leaving their muskets under his care. We should, perhaps, see a cannon or two planted near the meeting-house; and we should also see some strange wooden frames not far off, these being the stocks and the pillory, put there to punish offenders. Looking at this church itself, we should see that it had very few glass windows, and that these had very small and thick panes, diamond-shaped, and set in leaden frames. We should observe that the other windows had oiled paper, instead of glass; and we should see between the windows the heads of wolves that had been killed and displayed there during the past year.

"If we were to look inside the little church, we should not see families sitting together, as now, but they would be distributed according to age, or sex, or rank. In those days the old men sat together in one place in church, the young men in another, the young women in another. The boys all sat on the pulpit stairs and gallery, with constables to guard them. Each of these constables had a wand, with a hare's foot on one end and a hare's tail on the other. These were to keep people awake. If any woman went to sleep, the constable touched her on her forehead with the hare's tail; but if a small boy nodded he was rapped with the other end, not quite so gently. No doubt the wand was often used: for the services were sometimes three or four hours long, the sexton turning the hour-glass before the minister at the end of every hour. The only music consisted of singing by the congregation from a metrical version of the Psalms, called, 'The Bay Psalm Book.' The whole number of tunes known by the people did not exceed ten: and few congregations could go beyond five. This was the Puritan form of religious service. And people were not allowed to stay at home from it; for men called tithing-men were sent about the town to look for those who were absent. Men were fined for every unnecessary absence; and if they stayed away a month together, they might be put in the stocks or into a wooden cage.

"Looking round at the houses of the Puritan village, we should see that the older ones were made of earth or logs, one story high, with very steep roofs, covered with thatch.

"Entering any of these, we should find the fireplaces made of rough stones, and the chimneys either of boards or of short sticks crossing each other, and smeared with clay. Here and there we should see newer and better houses, made of wood and brick, two stories high in front and one story behind; or houses of stone, like those of which a picture is given, and which represents the house of Rev Mr. Whitfield at Guilford, Conn., built in 1639, and still standing, probably the oldest house in the United States north of Florida. We should see that the windows were very small, and opened on hinges; and we should find the fireplaces of these houses large enough for burning logs four feet long, and for the children to sit in the corners to look up at the sky. We should find the houses facing exactly south, so that the sun at noon might 'shine square' into them, and the family might know when to have dinner."

Mr. Higginson begins his story with the era of the mammoth ; then passes to the mound-builders ; then to the Indians ; then to the shadowy exploits of the Northmen ; then to Columbus ; and then to the early Spanish, French, and English explorers. He next proceeds to describe the origin and character of the several colonies forming the original thirteen, and this we are inclined to think the best part of the book. Next follows a condensed but clear account of the wars with the Indians and with the French. This brings us to the Revolution, the causes of which are well and fairly set forth, and its chief events sharply sketched, after which we have an account of the Confederation and its failure, and the final adoption of the Constitution. The administration of the successive Presidents, from Washington to Lincoln, with the questions which arose and the disposition made of them, till the slavery question overshadowed them all, is despatched in about sixty pages. Thirty-five more are given to the war of the Rebellion, and a few are added touching the present situation and future hopes and dangers.

There is no partisan spirit in the book, and facts are presented in a spirit of candor and fairness. Here and there occur errors of detail, as, for example, when it is said that the first vessel ever built on this continent by Europeans was launched by the Dutch from Manhattan Island, whereas the French more than fifty years before had built one near Port Royal, large enough to cross the Atlantic. The style is simple, direct, clear, and wholly free from the vices which corrupt the English of the rising generation in so many American books professing to be educational. There are many illustrations, quite unworthy of the text.

9. — *Lodsen og hans Hustru.* (*The Pilot and his Wife.*) Af JONAS LIE. Copenhagen. 1874.

SOME three years ago there appeared in Copenhagen a rather remarkable novel, *Den Fremsynte* ("The Man of Second-Sight"), the literary *débüt* of the Norwegian writer, Jonas Lie. Since then this author has conquered for himself a name in the very foremost rank of Scandinavian *literati*, and it would sound like a truism to repeat, at this day, the verdict, then universally rendered, that he is a novelist of very marked genius. And still, we are loath to admit that his second tale, *Tremasteren, Fremtiden* ("The Three-Master, Future"), although in many respects a highly creditable production, equalled "The Man of Second-Sight" in dramatic intensity and interest. It was distinctly an encore performance, and the impression of an encore